A True and perfect

NARRATIVE

Of the late Terrible and Bloody Murther of Sir *Edmondberry Godfrey*;

Who was found Murthered on *Thurſday* the 17*th.* of this Inſtant *October*, in a Field near *Primroſe-Hill.*

WITH

A full Accompt of the manner of his being Murthered, and in what manner he was found.

ALSO,

The full Proceedings of the Coroner, who ſat upon the Inqueſt, &c.

With Allowance.

EDINBURGH,
Re-printed by the *Heir* of *Andrew Anderſon*, Printer to the Kings moſt Sacred Majeſty, *Anno Dom.* 1678.

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Ferguson. 1/198

A true and perfect Relation of that Horrid and Bloody Murder committed upon the Body of Sir Edmondberry Godfrey.

SIR *Edmundberry Godfrey's* Death being the sad occasion of this Narrative, and the Subject of most peoples Discourse, I shall (to prevent any false or surreptitious Stories that are usually carried abroad about things of this nature) give the Reader this true and impartial account thereof.

On the 12th of this instant *October*, being Saturday, about Nine of the Clock in the Morning, Sir *Edmundberry Godfrey* went out of his own House in *Green's-lane* in the Strand about his Occasions: And was seen not long after near *Somerset-House*, but then supposed to be going home; and was at one of the Church-Wardens of the Parish of St. *Martins in the Fields* about some business or other by Nine of the Clock the same day: But so it was, that he came not to his own House that night, according to his usual Custom, nor gave any notice to his Servants of

any buſineſs that he had to hinder his returning that night. And from that time till Thurſday the 17*th* of the ſame Moneth about ſix a Clock at night, no tydings could be heard of him, (although all exact and diligent Inquiries and Searches were made for him) At which time his Dead Body was found dead in a Ditch upon the South ſide of *Primroſe-Hill* near *Hampſtead*. The occaſion of his being found was this; One *Prowley* a Baker, and *Waters* a Farrier, both of the Pariſh of St. *Giles in the Fields*, having an occaſion to go to the Houſe, commonly called the *Whitehouſe* near *Primroſe-hill*; and going over the Field where the Body of Sr. *Edmundberry* lay, ſaw, as they thought, a ſword and Belt, and a ſtick and a pair of Gloves lying together hard by the Hedge ſide, but they went not near to meddle with them, ſuppoſing they had belong'd to ſome perſon that was gone into the Ditch to eaſe himſelf. And when they came to the *Whitehouſe*, they told *John Rawſon* (the man of the ſaid Houſe) that they had ſeen a Sword and belt, and a Pair of Gloves and Stick lye in that place: Whereupon *John Rawſon* asked them, why they did not bring them thither: They told him they did not know but there might be ſome Body hard by to own them: *Rawſon* told them again, That there had been ſeveral Soldiers thereabout this Week a Hedghog-hunting, and it may be (ſaid he) ſome of them may have left them behind them.

After ſome further Diſcourſe, *Rawſon* agreed to go with the two men to the place, and if they found the things there, then, *Rawſon* was to give them a Shilling

to Drink, and was to take the things to his own House, till some body came thither to own them: and thereupon they went together to the place. When they came there, they found only a Belt and a Scabbard, and a Stick, and a pair of Gloves, but no Sword: which as *Rawson* was stooping to take up; he thought he saw some thing like a Man in the Ditch hard by, and so going to the Ditch, there they saw a Man lying, as they suppos'd upon his Belly, with a Sword run thorow him, and the point appearing about Seven or Eight Inches above his back: Upon this, they went immediatly to the Church-Warden of the Parish, to give him an account of it; but he being Sick, sent them to *Mr. Brown*'s the Constable, who presently taking with him several Neighbours and House-keepers, went to the place where the Body lay: Which was in a dry Ditch upon the South side of *Primerose-hill*, about two Fields distant from the *White-house*: The Posture in which he lay was this, he had a Sword run into him just under his left Pap, which came out upon the Right side of his back, about Seven or Eight Inches, one of his Hands being doubled under, on which he seemed to Lean, the other Hand lying upon the bank; his Hair, Chamlet Coat bring, turned up over his Head; his Hat and Perriwig bring among the Bushes over his Head, but no Band nor Cravat could be found about him; although when he went from Home, he had a large Lac'd Band on.

The Constable and the rest that were with him, being about a dozen, having taken good notice of the manner of his lying, caused him to be removed, the

Sword

Sword drawn out of his Body; concerning which Sword it is observable, that the point of it which came out at his back was covered all over with blood, and that part which was in his Body was black, without any blood upon it.

The Constable having caus'd the Body to be removed to the *White House*, and knowing it to be the Body of Sir *Edmundbury Godfrey*, he caused his Pockets to be searched, and found in one of them, in one Paper six Guineys, and in another paper four broad pieces of Gold and a half Crown; and in the other Pocket two Rings, whereof one was a Diamond, one Guiney, and four pound in Silver, and two small pieces of Gold, and one Ring he had upon one of his fingers: His Pocket Book (in which he used to take notes of Examination) being only missing.

On *Friday* the 14th of this instant, Mr. *Cooper* the Coroner of *Middlesex*, impannel'd a Jury at the *White-House* to inquire about the occasion of the death of the said Sir *Edmundbury*: and two Chyrurgions, (having been first Sworn) viewed the Body in the presence of the Coronor and the Jury; and found two wounds about it, which one of the Chyrurgions searched with his Probe; and found one of them not above an inch deep, the Probe going against one of his Ribs; but the other being a little below the left Pap, went quite thorow the Body: his Face was of a fresh colour, though in his life time very pale, somewhat swell'd, and a green circle about his Neck, as if he had been strangled, his blood being setled about his Neck, Throat, and the upper part of

his

his Breast: The Chyrurgions having viewed the Body, delivered their Judgements, That the wounds they found about him, were not the cause of his death, but that he was suffocated before the wounds were made. And that which may fully perswade any person of the truth thereof, is, That there was not one drop of blood to be found in the place where he lay, nor the least appearance of any such thing; though the Ditch was dry, and it might have been easily seen, if there had been any. Another thing was, that the very bottom of the soles of his Shoes were as clean as if he had but just come out of his own Chamber, which was an evident sign that he was carried thither.

A third thing very remarkable, is, That one of the Jury affirmed, That a Servant of his Mothers (who is owner of the ground where the Body lay) with a Butcher and two Boys, made a very strict and narrow search in all parts of that ground for a Calf that was missing upon *Munday* and *Tuesday* last, and at that time there lay no dead Body, Belt, Gloves, Stick, or other things there.

Now because several false Reports have gone abroad, tending to the Dishonour of this worthy Deceased Knight, as though he had been discontented about some Moneys owing by him to the Parish, and upon that account should make himself away: The Relator thinks good to testifie to the World, That to his own knowledge Sir *Edmundberry* lent to the Parish above 300 *l.* without Interest, a good part of which is yet unpaid, so palable

pable an untruth it is, that some wicked persons have spread abroad about him. But it is no wonder that those inhumane Wretches that have taken away his life, should go also about to blast his Reputation.

One thing more I cannot omit to mention, having received it from the mouth of one of the Church-Wardens of the Parish where he lived, which is, That Sir *Edmondsberry* not long ago gave him an hundred pound to bestow upon such poor People in the Parish as he knew were in want: Neither was that the first time that Sir *Edmondsberry* had imployed him in works of that nature, having often made him the distributer of his Charity, because he did not desire the applause of men for it. This without all doubt proceeded from so remarkable and so sincere a piety, That though it may be commended, I am afraid it will scarce be imitated.

FINIS.